



## Fact Sheet:



# State Incentive Grant

## Overview

Through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), California was awarded a \$12 million federal grant of \$4 million per year, over three years, to strengthen county prevention systems. Specifically, California's State Incentive Grant (SIG) program will use evidence-based, environmental prevention programs and strategies to reduce binge drinking and related community problems among 12-25 year olds.

***The goal of the California SIG is to assist 13 selected counties as they:***

- 1) *Develop and implement environmental prevention programs and strategies that optimize the use of State and federal substance abuse prevention funding streams and resources.*
- 2) *Implement specific and unique programs and strategies using science-based prevention practices that focus on youth and young adults ages 12-25.*
- 3) *Reduce past 30-day binge drinking, and related community impact, among youth and young adults.*
- 4) *Focus on local and statewide evaluation of county binge drinking prevention programs.*

## Binge Drinking

Studies establish that binge drinking is a serious problem among California's youth. According to the Committee on Developing a Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Underage Drinking, there are significant consequences associated with binge drinking. These include the threat to long-term development and well-being, increased incidence of traffic crashes, as well as other problem behaviors including violence, suicide, and educational failure that affect the community, as well as the individual.

The latest *California Student Survey (CSS) on Alcohol and Drug Use for Grades 7, 9, and 11* was released in October 2006. It shows a relative leveling-out of the decline seen in recent years across all grades and substances. While changes since the last biennial CSS are very small, a few findings are relevant to SIG's focus on binge drinking:

- Seventh graders reported marginal increases of about two percentage points in alcohol use
- Most changes for 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders are very small, but tend slightly toward increased use
- Twenty percent of 11<sup>th</sup> graders binge drink; 10 percent binged at least three times in the past 30 days
- There has been a rise in the number of 11<sup>th</sup> graders who drink and drive

SIG projects contribute to the continued effort needed in schools and communities to further reduce alcohol use by students, as indicated by the recent CSS data.

### ***County SIG Projects***

Through a competitive bid process in 2004, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) awarded 13 county alcohol and other drug (AOD) offices a total of approximately \$3.4 million per year for three years. Counties – Alameda, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Humboldt, Mono, Stanislaus, Marin, Santa Cruz, Mendocino, Orange, San Diego, and Sonoma - were selected based on their ability to effectively plan and use science-based, environmental prevention strategies to attain measurable outcomes related to SIG objectives.

County AOD offices worked on a range of binge drinking reduction objectives linked to the Governor's Prevention Advisory Council's Binge Drinking Strategic Plan of 2004. All county SIG projects were required to develop coalitions with members such as local government, schools, law enforcement, businesses and other community organizations.

In the first year (2004-2005), the 13 counties completed detailed local needs assessments relative to binge drinking, submitted prevention plans that contained logic models to carry out their actions, engaged local evaluation contractors for their projects, and prepared to implement their binge

drinking reduction strategies between October 2005 and September 2007.

In the second year (2005-2006), grantees began implementing program strategies towards the goal of reducing binge drinking. These strategies include establishing community coalitions, developing policies on Responsible Beverage Service, Deemed Approved Ordinances for on and off-sale alcohol outlets, policies and education for landlords and tenants, and Social Host Ordinances. In January 2006 and again in March 2007, grantees came together for a Statewide Learning Community Conference in Sacramento. The conferences allowed grantees to share their successes, challenges, and learn potential solutions and innovative models for implementing environmental prevention.

The third and final year (2006-2007), ended on September 30, 2007. Many grantees are working to sustain their programs to continue efforts towards reducing binge drinking and related community problems. Evaluation results from the California SIG will be available in July 2008.

### ***Future SIG Opportunities***

California's SIG project is the seventh, and final, cohort of this federal program. ADP does not anticipate that CSAP will offer SIG grants in the future.